



# FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSPAPER



**¡SE PERIÓDICO DE NEGRO Y ROSADO AHORA DISPONIBLE EN ESPAÑOL! / BLACK AND PINK NEWSPAPER NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH!**

La policia, los tribunales, y el sistema de prisiones en los Estados Unidos acosa a gente de color, particularmente a gente negra, latin@, arabe, o indígena. Casi 1 en 3 prisioneros hablan español como lengua materna. Queremos que nuestro periódico sea lo más disponible posible cualquiera persona quien quiera leerlo. Somos una familia más fuerte cuando más gente nos pueden entender. **Por favor, avisen a todos sus amigos lesbiana, gay, bisexual, transgenero, o kuir/queer que quisieran recibir un periódico en español que pueden escribir a:**  
**Black and Pink - Spanish Newspaper**  
**614 Columbia Rd.**  
**Dorchester, MA 02125**

The US police, court, and prison system targets people of color, particularly Black, Latin@, Arab, and Indigenous/American Indian people. Nearly 1 in 3 prisoners' first language is Spanish. We want our newspaper to be as available as possible to everyone who wants to read it. We are a stronger family when more people can understand us. **Please tell all your Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and/or Queer friends who would like a newspaper in Spanish to write to:**  
**Black and Pink - Spanish Newspaper**  
**614 Columbia Rd.**  
**Dorchester, MA 02125**

**FEDERAL APPEALS COURT: IT'S CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT TO DENY TRANSGENDER INMATES' SURGERY**

A panel of the First Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 on Friday in favor of Massachusetts transgender inmate Michelle Kosilek, affirming a lower court ruling that she deserves the sex reassignment surgery (SRS) her doctors have prescribed. The epic ruling details Kosilek's 20-year struggle to obtain the proper treatment and the lengths that the Massachusetts Department of Corrections (DOC) have gone to delay allowing her to receive it — a violation of the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution, which forbids “cruel and unusual punishment.”

The decision, itself, represents further delay, because the DOC appealed the lower court decision to again avoid allowing Kosilek to obtain the treatment that her doctors had deemed “medically necessary.” In their appeal, the DOC

Black and Pink  
614 Columbia Rd  
Dorchester, MA 02125

PRESORTED STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BOSTON, MA  
PERMIT NO. 1475

Return Service Requested



Art by B\*S, Texas

challenged two points made by the lower court: 1) that denying Kosilek sex reassignment surgery constituted unconstitutionally “inadequate medical care” and 2) that the DOC was not deliberately indifferent to her need for treatment.

The majority, in an opinion written by Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson, an Obama appointee, rejected these two challenges. The only medical professionals who disagreed that Kosilek was deserving of SRS were those who the DOC sought out knowing that they would be biased against recommending such treatment. The fact that doctors could be found to provide such a conclusion was not enough to disprove what the rest of her doctors insisted, let alone the fact that Kosilek had already twice attempted suicide and once attempted self-castration...

In defense of its second challenge, the DOC argued that it had significant security concerns relating to Kosilek both traveling to receive the surgery — that she might be a flight risk — and reintegrating into the prison — that she would either be a victim if she continued to serve in the men's prison or a threat and a flight risk if she were placed into a women's prison. The majority dismissed the first argument outright:

The likelihood of Kosilek, who has been transported to multiple doctor's appointments without issue, fleeing while traveling to receive the surgery that she has dedicated decades of her life to obtaining is improbable enough that we need say nothing more. Almost equally as unlikely is the idea that a now sixty-four year old, post-surgical, recovering Kosilek would be able to escape when being transported back to prison.

Continued on Page 5...



WHAT’S INSIDE

Page 2  
A Message from Jason  
Announcements  
Because of You: My Letter to CeCe McDonald on  
Her Release

Page 3  
Letters to Our Family

Page 4  
Trans Folks Down for the Fight  
Trans Inmate Ophelia De’lonta Granted Parole

Page 5  
Struggling for Rights!  
Federal Appeals Court: It’s Cruel And Unusual  
Punishment To Deny Transgender Inmates’ Surgery  
(Continued)  
Gay Indian Couple Held in ICE Prison Get Political  
Asylum  
Supreme Court strikes down Canada’s prostitution  
laws

Page 6  
Poetry from the Heart

Page 7  
Letters to Our Family Continued  
On the Inside Artwork Form  
Family Feedback

Page 8  
Because of You Continued  
Black & Pink Family Suggestions  
Addresses

Statement of Purpose  
Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ  
prisoners and “free world” allies who support  
each other. Our work toward the abolition of  
the prison industrial complex is rooted in the  
experience of currently and formerly incarcerated  
people. We are outraged by the specific  
violence of the prison industrial complex against  
LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy,  
education, direct service, and organizing.

Black & Pink is proudly a family of people of all  
races.

About this Newspaper  
Since 2007, Black & Pink free world volunteers  
have pulled together a monthly newspaper  
primarily composed of material written by our  
family’s incarcerated members. In response to  
letters we receive, more prisoners receive the  
newspaper each issue!

This month, the newspaper is being sent to:  
4290 prisoners!

Disclaimer:  
Please note that the ideas and opinions  
expressedin the Black & Pink Newspaper are  
solely those ofthe authors and artists and do not  
necessarily reflect the views of Black & Pink.  
Black & Pink makes no representations as to  
the accuracy of any statements made in the  
Newspaper, including but not limited to legal and  
medical information. Authors and artists bear sole  
responsibility for their work. Everything published  
in the Newspaper is also on the internet—it can  
be seen by anyone with a computer. By sending  
a letter to “Newspaper Submissions,” you are  
agreeing to have your piece in the Newspaper  
and on the internet. For this reason, we only  
publish First Names and State Location to  
respect people’s privacy.

Call for Submissions to HOT  
PINK!

Seeking erotic short stories and poems  
by Black & Pink incarcerated and free-  
world family members for a new ‘zine.  
Please send submissions to our Black  
& Pink - HOT PINK. This is a voluntary  
project, and no money will be offered  
for submissions, but you might get the  
chance to share your spicy story with  
many others! To subscribe to receive  
erotica, write to our new address, Black  
& Pink - HOT PINK.

A MESSAGE FROM JASON

Dear friends,  
I hope this note finds you as well as possible.  
The beginning of 2014 has seen some important victories  
on our side. Firstly, we are so excited to welcome CeCe  
McDonald out of prison! We are so glad that her story is  
getting national attention and are very hopeful that she  
will continue to use the publicity she is getting to bring  
attention to other transgender people in prison. Secondly,  
Michelle Kosilek, a transgender woman incarcerated  
in Massachusetts, won in an appeal over her fight for  
access to gender confirming surgery. This has been an  
ongoing case for nearly 20 years. The current governor  
of Massachusetts decided it was worth millions of dollars  
to fight Michelle even after the Federal Court judge ruled  
she should be given access to gender confirming surgery.  
This is an exciting precedent setting case. I am hopeful  
that this will open doors for more of our Black and Pink  
family members to have access to better health care. I am,  
however, anxious that this may also lead to more prisons  
hiring transphobic medical personnel who will refuse to  
give a diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder in the first  
place. This is something we will certainly keep an eye  
on. The last exciting thing I want to mention is that MTV  
has decided to work on a documentary project about gay  
men in prison. I am really excited about the possibility  
of this and also nervous about the agenda of MTV. I  
am hopeful that we can have some influence on how  
the media portrayal of gay men in prison is done. I am  
also hopeful that we can have some of our incarcerated  
family members on film, as long as we can get around the  
restrictions imposed by the prisons.

Switching things up a little bit, I was at an event  
recently and ended up in a heated conversation with a  
good friend about revolutionary change. As an abolitionist  
organization/family Black and Pink is automatically  
connected to ideas of revolution. If we are to live in a  
world free from cops, judges, prisons, probation officers,  
and other forms of state/private control then we must be  
part of the larger efforts to weaken and break all things that  
hold up racism, capitalism, militarism, patriarchy, etc. In  
this conversation with my friend I suggested that prisoner  
uprisings were a key part of revolution. I suggested  
that moments like the Attica prison uprising in 1971  
act as little moments of revolution that can strengthen a  
larger movement. I suggested that as prisoners develop  
their political analysis and connect their struggles to  
other movements that we can see a powerful force for  
revolutionary change. What do you think? Do you believe  
prisoners have the ability to help forward revolution? Do  
you believe in prisoner power to take down the oppressive  
systems we are trying to fight?

My friend was arguing that prisoner power is not  
a particularly important part of revolutionary change. He  
was arguing that prisoners are not part of the working  
class who should be organized into powerful unions that  
can make demands of bosses and weaken the power of  
capitalism. I must say, it seems to me that organized  
prisoners have some incredible power. Prisoners in  
California organized the largest known hunger strike in  
US history last year. Currently prisoners in Indiana are  
on hunger strike making demands to be treated better  
and receive adequate food. Prisoners in Menard, Illinois  
are also on hunger strike, the same prisoners who were  
recently moved from Tamms Supermax. These prisoners  
are demanding an end to the horrible conditions at  
Menard. It is very powerful to know that prisoners are  
making demands all across the country. Prisoners fighting  
back is not something new, it has a long history in this  
country and around the world. It does not often feel like  
it, but you are powerful. The prison walls, the prison  
guards, and so many others control so much of your lives,  
but you are powerful when you organize together.

I recently watched the movie Long Walk to  
Freedom about Nelson Mandela, who was a huge part  
of fighting against apartheid in South Africa and was  
incarcerated for 27 years. Before he was part of the larger  
movement he was often fighting alone as a lawyer, case  
by case, to make changes. He was approached by other  
organizers and one of them lifted up one finger and telling  
him, “as one, you can fight,” and then lifting up another  
finger, “as two you can fight,” and then lifting up all five  
fingers before making a fist, saying, “but with many, you  
have power.” This is true for us in the Black and Pink  
family. Over 4,000 prisoners receive our newspaper. We  
are building something more than an organization. We  
are building more than a family, we are building power.

We will continue growing and building because we know  
that once there were no prisons, that day will come again.

In loving struggle,  
Jason

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are currently processing mail that we received in  
July. We are six months behind and catching up as  
quickly as possible. Remember that if you send us  
pictures we cannot promise we will get them back to  
you, we are doing our best.

Sometimes we receive emails from your family  
members asking to remove your name from our online  
database. We do our best to ensure that they are correctly  
speaking for you, we do not want to remove anyone  
from our list that does not want to be. We do, however,  
want to keep you safe. If you do not want to receive the  
newspaper any longer or be on our website, please let us  
know.

There are times when the newspaper is refused from  
different prisons. The reasons include no prisoner  
to prisoner contact, no homosexual materials, no  
inflammatory writing, and so forth. We are beginning to  
look into suing a couple of the prisons who are refusing  
the newspaper. We will be in touch with some of our  
family members inside before we put anyone at risk for  
retaliation.

BECAUSE OF YOU: MY LETTER TO CECE  
MCDONALD ON HER RELEASE

Dear CeCe,  
I’ve started and stopped many letters to you,  
never knowing what to say. I sent books, instead. Books  
you requested, books that could probably impart more  
joy and wisdom and strength than I ever could. What  
exactly does one write to a woman who has influenced  
them during such a pivotal shift in their life?

I could never find the words.  
Now, I wake to the news that your body has  
left the confines of that prison. The one that has housed  
you for the past year and a half. Activist and community  
members around the world have chanted, “FREE CECE.”  
But I know you have been free this entire time.

No one could take that from you. Your narrative  
alone, in your own words, with your own beauty and  
power and love and graciousness, showed me that I did  
not need to fight for your freedom.

Your life was yours. Your body was held captive.  
But you were always free.

I met you for the first time as a name, as a slogan,  
as the face of a movement to end “transphobia” – as if  
something so reductive could encapsulate the bawwseness  
of your complete, multilayered existence. We know  
that you were in prison not because you were trans but  
because you were trans and you were black and you were  
woman and you were not going to take a beating.

When I found myself crying over the  
overwhelming injustice of that incident and your  
proceeding incarceration, I was just beginning to tell my  
own story publicly. I was frightened, girl. I didn’t know  
exactly what I was doing and where I was going and what  
I truly wanted to say. All I knew was that I had a story  
and I had seen no one who looked like me – who was  
brown and trans and grew up poor and a woman – out  
there telling our stories.

At the time, the doors were being opened to me,  
from all kinds of folk, and I accepted many invitations.  
Yet, I soon realized something was amiss, as I’ve written:  
“The people at the table often did not reflect me or my  
community. These spaces and the conversations were  
dominated by men, specifically upper-middle-class white  
cis gay men. Women, people of color, trans folks and  
especially folks who carried multiple identities were all  
but absent.”

I was invited because I was deemed acceptable  
and appropriate. My sisters — the ones who I grew up  
with on the streets of Honolulu, the ones who were living  
their lives in men’s prisons, the ones who were serving  
face and body as a means of survival — they didn’t get an  
invitation. And, as foremother Sylvia Rivera said, “I will  
no longer put up with this shit.”

This was my political awakening, and you gave  
me the strength to gracefully reject all RSVPs, and

Continued on Page 8...



My name is Matt, I’ve been receiving the Newspaper for some time, and I pray that my story is heard. I had a good friend here in prison with me, we’ll call him Dan, who was having major problems in his life. His family had abandoned him because he was gay, he was having trouble adjusting to prison being a first time offender, not to mention his boyfriend of 5 years broke up with him. During my discussions with him I found out that he was suicidal, wanting a final release do the pain would end. Talking with him was difficult because I am in the open bay dorms and he was across the compound in the buildings, so we would meet wherever and whenever we could. To my sorrow, it was not enough, he was needing me more than I could give, and falling deeper into the pain.

One of my favorite sections, if not my favorite section of the Newspaper, is the poetry. I love reading about the love, hopes, dreams, and determination/ strength of others, seeing a beautiful part of their soul even though I don’t know them.

I tried to loan Dan four of my Newspapers and begged him to read them, eventually he agreed to take them. Four days passed and I had heard nothing, scared to death thinking he took his life. On the fifth day he came to the library where I work with tears in his eyes, saying over and over, “Thank you.” He would not tell me which one, however, he said that one poem had pierced him to his very core and he had found hope.

By now he has EOS’d and gone “home,” wherever that may be, doing what I’m uncertain, because he hasn’t written in some time. What I do know is that he found hope in your Newspaper. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your Newspapers, thank you for giving Dan hope and the strength to continue on, thank you for saving his life.

Sincerely,

Matt, Florida

Dear Black & Pink Brothers, Sisters, and Many Family,

Greetings and Blessed Be, I greet you all with Love and Joy and Sadness and Loneliness from the Texas Dept of Criminal Injustice- Corruption-filled Institutional Division. My name is Robert, I am a 40 year old Gay man serving a 16 year aggravated sentence on a wrongful conviction. Currently trying to find legal help with my appeal, but that isn’t what this is about.

This is about coming out and being persecuted because of it by the prison Chaplain here on this unit. Last week I went to the unit Chaplain and told him that I needed to speak to him because I felt like I should speak to him about discriminating against and verbally attacking the members of the LGBTQ Community. He asked me why I would protect this community and I told him that I am Bi/Queer, and then I told him that if I informed his boss about what he was saying, he would lose his job. He said, “Look you f---t and you abomination, you can’t do anything to stop me because they won’t do anything about it.”

It’s things like this that happen in TDCJ-CID, and we have to put up with the abuse and discrimination or else we fight back and we are “still in the wrong” no matter what we do. A couple of weeks ago, a young man (Queen) here was raped and nobody did anything about it as far as I know. The PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) doesn’t seem to do any good in some places.

Anyway, the Chaplain won’t help anyone who is Gay, Lesbian, etc. According to him we are trash. Now, here is my question: If an Administrative Official can get away with this kind of abuse and discrimination without consequences, should we expect that if he wanted to do so, he could kill one of us and get away with it?

A few weeks ago, another Gay guy died of sudden cardiac arrest and then exactly 10 days later another guy who wasn’t Gay died of the exact same thing. In fact, they died at almost the exact same time, only 10 minutes difference. The guards aren’t even trained to operate emergency resuscitation equipment. We are assigned to a designated medical, psychiatric, sex offender unit where there is supposed to be trained medical personnel here 24 hours a day. In point of fact, there are no medical staff here from maybe 6:00 pm to 4:00 or 5:00 am, and nobody will do anything to correct the situation.

I’ll let you go now. May you all be blessed. I hope to hear from you soon.

Blessed Be,  
Robert. aka Wiccan Guv

Hey Black & Pink Family,

I have a few things I would like to discuss which I’m pretty sure I am not alone when I say this- the Black & Pink family has done something which other Newspaper/Newsletters don’t usually do, they have included our feedback when it comes to what we would like to see in the Newspaper. To be quite honest I love receiving my Black & Pink- it’s an honor and a privilege to be a part of the Black & Pink family. I felt hurt when Jason ran off the percentages of the number of people who returned their questionnaires back, and what was voted for and what was not.

People, we have come a long way to be recognized by the hetero society with a long ways to go, so why would we want to exclude our Spanish speaking queer family? That is not us, people, and our civil rights struggles reflect that. We have an opportunity to voice our opinion to what matters most.

Take pride in participating in answering the questions in the Newspaper because like most who are opinionated, I have a lot that I would like to see done and we cannot do that with little or no feedback. Black & Pink has democracy in mind and sees the importance in including the prison population of the queer nation. Let’s send in our feedback, and realize we are fighting for each other, and show our appreciation of all that is done for us.

In love, struggle, solidarity, and queerness,  
James “Rogue”, California

Dear Black & Pink Fellow Fam Members,

A big “Merry Meet” going out to each and every one of you. My name is Matt, I am 43 years old, half-Hispanic male currently serving a 20 year sentence

in Oklahoma. After being a member of the B&P family for over a year, I have to count my blessings. Although I have faced profane, derogatory, and discriminatory remarks by staff members during my 4 years of incarceration, I have not had it near as bad as some of the stories I read from many of you out there. My heart goes out to each and every one of you who have had to endure not only abuses by staff, but physical and sexual abuses by inmates with staff turning a blind eye.

I first “came out” as gay when I was 17 years old, just after graduating high school in North Texas in June of 1988. The 80’s being the middle of the AIDS crisis, I and my friends endured much hatred, violence, and discrimination. On any given weekend night while sitting at our local hang-out, “fag-bashers” would come driving by with baseball bats, running us out of the park in which we were only minding our own. A couple of hours later here would come the “Christian Crusaders” with their Bibles in tow condemning us to an after-life in hell if they were not able to “save” us. To this day, I still wonder which one was the worst of the 2 evils!

I caught my current case in April of 2010 and upon arriving at the small rural county jail, I was subjected to verbal abuse and threats by a detention officer for being gay. Because of the reserved and quiet way I carry myself, even his fellow staff members reported him as being out of line and his actions as mirroring those of a hate crime. Karma can be poetic justice well served, that particular officer was asked to resign 6 months later for numerous other issues!

When I got to the current DOC facility I am now at, I incurred verbal harassment by a particular female c/o. Each time she harassed me it only got under her skin more when I would not react in the manner in which she was hoping. I did just the opposite- put up a stone wall around me. Finally, after her last attempt I went to the Deputy Warden with a list of each incident with the date and times of the incidents as well as the details as to what was said and a list of material witnesses. Seeing that the c/o’s actions were enough to warrant a case of sexual harassment, the Deputy Warden handled the issue immediately and the harassment stopped!

To my brothers and sisters who are continually enduring hardships of abuse and harassment, Do Not Give Up! Stand your ground and rise above the level of idiocy portrayed by intolerant and ignorant staff members. Research and educate yourselves on your state’s sexual harassment laws. When diplomacy fails do not succumb to stupidity, but rise above it! Contact your family and friends out in the world, the ACLU, any gay or transgendered attorneys, contact someone, but Do Not Give Up! Walk with integrity, respect, and knowledge, anything less will only come back to haunt you later. Be prideful and hold yourselves to a higher standard. Blessed Be!

Matt, Oklahoma

My Saving Family,

Hello Gals and Guys, Geeks and Freaks, Peers and Queers. This is Billy down Texas way, crying his eyes out! As I sit writing my loving family who cares for me at Black & Pink, I realized today, the day after Thanksgiving, just how much pain I’m in, and what a beautiful gift I have in having each of you who write to Black & Pink.

Before I go any further, I want to say something very important, so listen up: For those of you who write in for the first time and share just a few words with us- with me- those I feel are the most important words in this Newspaper, this movement. Thanks each of you. You kept me from such a dark place on a holiday, that means so much to me. I, Billy, feel you are the most important people at this table, thank you!

This past Thanksgiving holiday, for me, was the worst I’ve had since I’ve been locked up. But God is good, and the night before the next issue of Black & Pink found its way to me on my new unit. I had been moved and it was out of retaliation for filing on a number of officers for their “repeated sexual harassment.” It started after a story I wrote for Black & Pink, “Health Advice,” in the May 2013 issue. No, no, I do not regret a printed word. Not one! Now reading our new issue and what’s going before Governor Brown in CA about condoms in prison...

But I digress. Anyway, when I filed a Step One Grievance, I was called in and it was investigated and they told me, “I don’t want to file this.” I let them know, “Yes, I did and a copy and complaint went outside the unit as well.” So I guess you could say, Billy rung that bell. Someone heard it too.

Since then I’ve been shipped all over this state. They have a term for the way I was treated- it’s called “Diesel Therapy.” That’s where they put you on a chain bus and ride you around.

Well, here I sit now. This unit is a disciplinary unit. So can you tell me why I was moved here to this huge unit, and now I don’t have a TV in my cell (hint hint). Anyway, the first place I was sent I never should have walking on to. I won’t go into the insanity of that, but why am I here? I did not get a disciplinary case, I’m still a G II, S III, that’s the lowest custody level I’m allowed due to medical reasons. I just got tired of the constant abuse. The old Billy would have lashed out months ago, but that’s not me anymore. Black & Pink, it’s readers and writers, have a great deal to do with this change in me.

So even though yesterday was just awful, thank you! This is what Billy needs from you. First your prayers. I’m not going to let this go. Laws are changing and I’m tired. Anyone on the outside can read more and write comments to me at my blog [betweenthebars.org/blogs/429](http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/429)

I love you all and I know with every fiber in me that my higher power was doing for me what I couldn’t do for myself, and that’s get this issue of Black & Pink into my hands when I needed it the most!

In Unity, ‘Til the Toe Tags,  
Peace, Billy, Texas



Dear Black & Pink,

First of all, let me say I hope all of my Black & Pink Family had Happy Holidays. May this New Year be all that you expect it to be. For those of you who do not know me, my friends call me Shayla. I am doing a seventeen year bid in the California prison system for Burglary. I am African American, and I identify as male-to-female transgender. What I want to discuss with all of you today is simply about being in prison, and also what it is like to be gay or trans in prison.

Our current American society wholeheartedly embraces putting our asses in prison. And they are putting us here younger and for longer periods of time. This should not be new to anyone, as least not anyone who actually pays attention to anything other than what Pop News is reporting. Fact of the matter is, we are living in a country that creates criminals at an alarming rate, and as a result the country’s polichickens are consistently elected to office on scare tactics and “get tough on crime” speeches at every fundraiser attended by already scared to death older people and the so-called “community-minded” young people who don’t know anything but think they know everything.

The reality is that all this does is serve as an excuse to raise taxes under the guise of rehabilitation programs that the prison system never actually uses or even cares about having except for getting money- tax dollars to just keep a body in a seat. No one actually cares if we get an education or learn a trade around here, what they do care about is harassing the gay and trans community. What they do care about is promoting gang violence. What they do care about is doing anything that will ensure you come back so they (the staff) have job security, that is their only real function.

The administration will tell you that they don’t harass those of us who are gay or trans, but they do, and they will tell you that they will not allow other inmates to harass or harm you, but they do. If you are openly gay on the main line here in California, and Black, you are asked to leave the main line and go to Special Needs Yard (SNY), where they decide to put drop out gang members, sexual offenders, and anyone who won’t fold to the racist mainline politics. If you are White or Hispanic and trans on the main line you will most likely be killed if you try to stay on the line, or get put in the hole if you won’t go SNY.

So it is obvious that we are in a no win situation, at least that’s the way it would seem. We can win if we have a number of things in place. Firstly, for many gay and trans people, respect yourself, that way you can have legs to stand on when you are demanding to be respected. Secondly, demand to be respected by making all those who disrespect you accountable for their actions. Write these cops up, keep good clear records, file in court, push the paper, they get away with all their devilment because we either don’t file or don’t follow through.

If you are a free member of the Black & Pink family and there are people who will listen to you out there, please let our voices be heard in the proper forum with the proper people, we all need support, not just the gay and trans community, but everyone in here. If we are to become productive members of society, we have to actually be known as member of society.

Thank you for listening to me, I can be a bit wordy, but I want this community to be solid, I also want the general public to know what actually goes on with the system and what we could do to change it all. Until next time, to all my Gay and Trans boyfriends and girlfriends- stay beautiful and safe, and to all my Straight Black & Pink members, thank you very much for your love and support, you are loved too.

With Love,  
Shayla, California

Dear Black & Pink,

My name is Tori and I am a 31 year old transwoman. This is the second time that I have written. First off I would like to say how much I enjoy receiving the Newspaper. Thank you so much to all the people that write and share their thoughts and comments with everyone. It has really helped and encouraged me along my way.

I have finally been moved from the mental health dorm to the population area in a different prison. I am so happy for that. To me it is like a whole different world. The place I was at before was so sheltered that it wasn’t even funny. The people here at my new prison are so friendly and nice. I enjoy them a lot. I was kinda scared at first to move because I was at my old prison for almost 5 years. Now I am glad I did move. I missed my old boyfriend at first for a while, we had been together for about 3 years. I have found me a new boyfriend now and he is to me the best. He goes home soon but I am enjoying every minute I have with him and learning so much about people and prison life. I have a really good roommate and he is really respectful of me. Most of my friends are that way too.

Right now we are locked down because of an unknown reason, so they say. So I guess I have some time to myself. I like to read a lot so I guess I have plenty of time to do that. My parents are still having a hard time accepting me. So I still feel up and down about that all the time.

I hope all my brothers and sisters had a very special holiday season. I feel so good to have Black & Pink Family that I can relate to. It really helps me to know that no matter where in life you may go, people still care. That’s good to know.

Well, I will go for now, but not forever. I love you all.  
Always,  
Tori, South Carolina

Dear Black & Pink Family,

Greetings, from all places, Wyoming. My name is Kevin but I go by Shannon, how all my friends know me. I kill my number in a few months and will return to Seattle where I belong. I too share the same battles in our prison systems and have been a positive force for other transsexuals who will come after me. Although my demands have never been met- the right to have make-up or the same as what’s allowed in women’s facilities. I hope to leave my mark before I go.

Real freedom is being comfortable in your own skin and I encourage you all to realize the one and only thing that destroys all humans is fear. When I realized I was tripping over the little things because my fear of worrying about what others thought, I was more able to focus on just becoming me and enriching my life with what I could. So I learned Spanish and Hebrew and I began to teach those around me about Gender Identity and how I view things vs how others view them, and that we aren’t the wildebeests of society or a roadside attraction. In fact there are more admirers of TS than you might know. So I encourage all of you to step away from the ball and chains that keep you from flourishing. From this experience and me being a musician, I plan to take this back to those who have a voice in the entertainment field and plan to make a difference in the world. Help the new fish coming in and become a mentor for that GLBTQ who’s doing their first time down and be their support.

Let’s start being the family that strives together to overcome our fears, persecutions, and prejudices. Uniting with the common goal to live in a harmonious world of love and understanding. John Lennon said it best- “Give Peace a Chance.” Who’s willing to go first?

Peace & Love,  
Shannon, Wyoming

TRANS INMATE OPHELIA DE’LONTA GRANTED PAROLE

Transgender inmate Ophelia De’lonta had served 34 years of a 73-year prison sentence, but lawyers for the inmate said she should be out by April 1st.

De’lonta had gained notoriety since 1999 when she came out as transgender. She has since been fighting a legal battle for the state to pay for hormone treatments, and most recently, gender reassignment surgery.



In August of last year, De’Lonta successfully fought for the right to receive a screening for Gender Identity Disorder which could have led to a state funded gender reassignment surgery. At the time, De’Lonta’s lawyer Victor Glassenburg told GayRVA about the medical necessity for gender reassignment surgery for someone suffering from GID.

“Think of it like cancer, you can treat it with radiation, you can treat it with chemotherapy, and there comes a point when you treat it with surgery. You have to cut it off,” said Glasberg. “Whatever it is, so as not to endanger the rest of the body.”

De’Lonta had taken to self-mutilation in her jail cell, and the jail allowing her to see a doctor about her GID was a good sign for her future treatment.

Few details have been released, but De’Lonta had a parole hearing, but in an interview with AP, William Muse, Board Chair of the corrections facility De’Lonta was serving in, said he personally delivered the parole letter to the inmate. Muse said the relationship between himself and De’Lonta had been positive for many years and his rare personal letter delivery was ”just because I’ve known her a long time.”

Muse also denied De’Lonta’s release had anything to do with the the inmates pursuit of gender reassignment surgery.

In a phone interview today, Glasberg said De’Lonta was “happy” with the news of her upcoming release. “There’s some bureaucratic stuff Department of Corrections has to attend to, which is typical.” De’Lonta is expected to be released within 45 days.

While Glasberg couldn’t say if De’Lonta’s legal battle had anything to do with her release, he confirmed the DOC no longer had to worry about granting the inmate surgery or setting a precedent with De’Lonta’s request.

“Obviously we’re not involved in the decision-making, but everyone is free to draw their own correct conclusions.”

Originally Published at <http://www.gayrva.com/news-views/trans-inmate-ophelia-delonta-granted-parole/>



FEDERAL APPEALS COURT: (TRANSGENDER INMATES' SURGERY  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Moreover, the Court was unconvinced that the DOC’s supposed security concerns held any merit, particularly because Kosilek already openly identifies as female in the prison without issue:

First, Kosilek has been housed safely while living as a woman — wearing female clothing, using female cosmetics, and taking female hormones that caused her to develop breasts and a feminine body shape — in the general population at MCI-Norfolk for many years... Once an actual security review was done, then Superintendent Spencer reported that there were no current security concerns with Kosilek being provided estrogen therapy. And no security issues ended up cropping up after that. The DOC’s about-face calls into question their present stance with regard to the impact of surgery.

The case begs the question as to what is gained by denying Kosilek the surgery. Despite public outcry from elected officials that taxpayer money should not be spent on such treatment — including a proposed law banning sex reassignment surgery for inmates — it was never actually an argument made in this case. In fact, Massachusetts has spent far more fighting Kosilek’s surgery (over \$52,000 on medical experts alone) than her surgery would have cost.

The dissent, written by Ford and Reagan appointee Judge Juan Torruella, sheds no further light on the benefits of denying Kosilek the medical treatment she deserves. He was persuaded that the DOC’s biased experts provided an “adequate” solution for Kosilek, ignoring the fact that depression was a symptom of her gender dysphoria and thus, antidepressants alone would not solve her problem. His bias against Kosilek’s needs was particularly evident when he wrote that the DOC had reasonable concerns that she would be a security threat after her surgery:

The majority defends the district court’s determination in part by noting that Kosilek may continue to be housed in MCI-Norfolk’s general population where no security issues have arisen during her tenure. The fact that no such issues have arisen in the past, however, does not necessarily render inappropriate or unreasonable the DOC’s concerns that issues might present themselves in Kosilek’s post-operative future. Certainly, courts cannot and should not strip from prison officials the ability to consider and implement prophylactic solutions to foreseeable issues reasonably within the scope of their security expertise. In fact, such a retroactive style of administration would, in itself, seem to amount to just the sort of indifference to credible threats of harm that might constitute a constitutional violation. [...]

Though Kosilek has been forced to wait entirely too long to receive the medical care that she deserves, her story and the epic amount of deliberation over her condition provide a unique educational opportunity about transgender identities. Kosilek’s distress is not because she is transgender, but because she has been denied the opportunity to fully realize her transgender identity. Though her murder conviction may not endear much public sympathy, her victory will likely set important precedents for the health care of transgender people in the future.  
*By Zack Ford Originally Published at <http://thinkprogress.org/lgbt/2014/01/17/3182501/federal-appeals-court-cruel-unusual-punishment-deny-transgender-inmates-surgery/>*

GAY INDIAN COUPLE HELD IN ICE PRISON GET POLITICAL ASYLUM

As India continues its debate over the criminalization of homosexuality, an Indian gay couple, who were held for six months in ICE detention facilities in El Paso, Texas, received political asylum Dec. 20 based on claims they were persecuted in their home country for their sexual identity.

Jagdish Kumar and Sukhwinder Sukhwinder left India in June 2012 and travelled by various means for a year through Dubai, Cyprus and several South and Central American countries before arriving on foot from Mexico at the Texas border. The two had no visas, but immediately applied for political asylum at the border and were taken into Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

“They fled India because they were afraid of violence. They imagined the U.S. to be a welcoming country. Unfortunately, they were detained as soon as they arrived,” Clement Lee, a staff attorney with Immigration Equality, told India-West.

Immigration Equality – an organization that represents people from around the world fleeing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status – fought for the release of Kumar and Sukhwinder and represented their case for political asylum.

In routine procedure, people who seek political asylum are paroled from ICE custody while their case is pending, Lee noted, adding that both demonstrated a “credible fear” of being persecuted in India during their initial ICE interview. During the six-month detention, the couple was held in separate cell blocks, away from one another. “I cannot live without him. We came here to be together; all we want is to be together,” said Kumar in an interview with ICE officials. Kumar’s requests for a shared cell with Sukhwinder went unanswered, according to Immigration Equality. Four requests for parole were also denied despite the fact that Kumar has a cousin – Jatinder Kumar – who offered the couple housing in his La Crosse, Wisc., home.

The 28-year-old Kumar hails from Rewari, in the state of Haryana. During his teen years, Kumar felt extreme family pressure to marry a woman, despite his emerging alternate sexuality. “He was afraid his family would kill him if he didn’t marry a woman,” said Lee. “He felt he would be poisoned or strangled or burned alive by homophobic people,” added Lee.

Kumar’s fears were compounded by the family’s treatment of an uncle who had chosen not to marry. The uncle was beaten many times, once so severely that he needed to be hospitalized, according to Lee. Kumar bowed to family pressure and did marry a woman when he was 21. The couple moved to Chandigarh, where Kumar met Sukhwinder, a dancer.

Kumar and Sukhwinder’s cases for political asylum were fortuitously joined, in order to prove the basis for their claim, said Lee, explaining that people fleeing persecution rarely have sufficient documentation to prove their cases. “They had one another, and could recount their stories,” the attorney told India-West. Kumar and Sukhwinder are now living in La Crosse, Wisc. The state has banned gay marriage, but recognizes domestic partnerships. Political asylum status grants the couple the right to live and work indefinitely in the U.S. Kumar is still married in India and would have to obtain a divorce if he and Sukhwinder decide to marry in a state that recognizes gay marriage.

In 2009, a Delhi High Court struck down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, a 152-year-old law which prohibited “carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal.” But on Dec. 11, the Indian Supreme Court overruled the lower court’s decision, once again re-criminalizing gay and lesbian sex.

In its verdict, the Supreme Court said only Parliament could rescind the antiquated law. Millions of protestors across the world and in the U.S. attended a “Global Day of Rage,” to protest the court’s decision. The Indian government has since filed a review petition to examine the Supreme Court decision.

Lee predicted that the Supreme Court decision was “the beginning of a shift of political asylum cases from India,” as gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people once again face imprisonment if they are caught engaging in sex. The Indian Supreme Court decision was critical in deciding Kumar and Sukhwinder’s requests for political asylum, he said.

Read more at <http://www.indiawest.com/news/15955-gay-indian-couple-held-in-ice-prison-get-political-asylum.html#YjBIZSzd5Miq3oG.99>

SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN CANADA’S PROSTITUTION LAWS

The Supreme Court of Canada has struck down the country’s major prostitution laws, saying that bans on street soliciting, brothels and people living off the avails of prostitution create severe dangers for vulnerable women and therefore violate Canadians’ basic values. [...]

“Parliament has the power to regulate against nuisances, but not at the cost of the health, safety and lives of prostitutes,” she wrote.

“The prohibitions all heighten the risks. . . . They do not merely impose conditions on how prostitutes operate. They go a critical step further, by imposing dangerous conditions on prostitution; they prevent people engaged in a risky – but legal – activity from taking steps to protect themselves from the risks.” [...]

To stand, any new laws would have to “take seriously the safety concerns of people who are engaged in sex work,” Elaine Craig, a law professor at Dalhousie University, said.

The government has a wide set of options. “As far as I can tell there is no constitutional bar to prohibiting the sale of sex for money provided the harm of the law doesn’t grossly outweigh the federal government’s objective in adopting it,” Prof. Craig said.

She said the prostitution laws struck down by the court “were nuisance laws. They were about trying to ensure that people in good, upstanding neighbourhoods were not exposed to the unsightliness of sex workers. These laws were never about protecting sex workers.” And the court saw the harms as out of whack with the laws’ objectives.[...]

The court cited specific harms caused by each of the three laws. The ban on brothels prevents prostitutes from working in safer indoor locations, and is “grossly disproportionate to the deterrence of community disruption.” The law against living off the avails of prostitution is intended for pimps, but also bans “legitimate drivers, managers, or bodyguards. . . accountants or receptionists.” The ban on street soliciting is intended to take prostitution out of public view to prevent nuisance, but endangers prostitutes by preventing them from weeding out dangerous clients, and is therefore grossly disproportionate to its purpose, the court said.

*By Sean Fine Originally Published at <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/supreme-court-rules-on-prostitution-laws/article16067485/>*

A WOMAN

One not to complain  
yet forced to notice  
Life is always busy  
like it's your job

Running from here to (t)here  
only to set up the next meet  
The few moments you have  
may only rest your feet

Only when we are told  
are we aware it affects our mood  
Struck with emotion  
do we deny and lash out

One not to fall victim  
we attempt to tackle the world  
Proving only to ourselves  
we are capable

“Can’t” isn’t in our vocabulary  
Vicious is our tactics  
to receive what we desire  
by all means

Who, what, why, and how,  
are all defined by the individual  
as the role in which we are  
is vital, to all

Mrs. Puddin, Pennsylvania

ENCOUNTER

A touch  
A gentle caress  
My fingertips running lightly over  
Your skin.  
Tingling;  
Your body reacts.  
The earlier sign of the pleasure  
about the begin.  
My hands;  
kneading your flesh.  
Massaging your shoulders, your back,  
your beautiful a--.  
Goosebumps;  
My fingers coax  
From every part of your body as  
They pass.  
I mount  
And slide inside.  
You moan with pleasure as I pick  
Up the pace.  
Climax!  
We come as one;  
And fall into each other’s warm  
embrace.

Mike, Pennsylvania

THE REAL WORLD

Guilty is what they found me  
Evidence of only words  
The physical didn’t matter  
nor did it match

Corrupt is the system  
Biased are the people  
How in America  
Are all created equal?

Taking people’s lives  
Sending them away  
The power of God  
Does man attempt to obtain

Innocent until proven guilty  
Proof beyond a reasonable  
doubt  
Yet predetermined doubt  
Strips one’s innocence

Everyone makes mistakes  
Yet they are all perfect  
Jobs are what they have  
But what will they be done?

Mrs. Puddin, Pennsylvania



Art by Karyn, Texas

Still I stand and  
never will I fall.

So many people have tried to  
push and pull me; and some have  
even tried to remove me;  
Still I stand and never will  
I fall

Life has brought me many problems;  
Still I stand and never will I fall.

Even through this fight of my  
health and loss of loved ones;  
Still I stand and never will I fall

At times I feel like giving up on  
life and even God;  
Still I stand and never will I fall.

So many things go wrong in my  
life and never look to ever go right;

Still I Stand and Never Will I Fall!  
Brielle Jell-o Louisiana

STILL I STAND

Late at night  
while others sleep  
I sit on my bunk  
and cry and weep  
I’m in a crowd  
but so alone  
with no one to share  
this secret I own  
Then I dry my eyes  
take out paper and pen-  
write to Black & Pink  
a prison Queer’s best friend

With Black & Pink  
I can share my dreams  
forget my fears  
silence my screams  
With Black & Pink  
to share my needs  
‘till I find a man  
to feast upon his seed

Someday, from this cell I’ll flee  
into an Ebon God’s strong arms  
until then, I have Black & Pink  
with it’s loving words and charms.

C’Leo aka Mavourneen, Georgia

R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

“What does it mean to me?”  
More than a word, a song;  
it is life.  
Tied up and confused,  
the others looks all amused  
at my corpse in shambles upon the ground.  
“Is this all there is:  
bodily fluids, electrons, atoms, piss?”  
(Please don’t think it rude to be crude.)  
Lights out, head bowed,  
bars shut, spirit cowed-  
speak no honest thoughts aloud...  
“Respect?”  
You’ll find none here:  
The meaning’s all befuddled.  
Ask me now, that then,  
after what cesspool I’ve been living in.  
“You break them down, make them  
compliant...”  
(says a prison guard before a riot.)  
I was once proud,  
and, more than naught,  
voiced my will-opinioned thoughts aloud.  
They’re stifled now:  
Silence (golden).  
“Speak only when spoken to...”  
Better yet, not even then.  
Massive trunks of rippled muscle  
hide well-meaning humans in their shadow.  
“Stop rape: Consent!”  
This won’t hurt a bit...  
The body floats away,  
it stays unharmed;  
moreso than the heart and soul unarmed.  
“The mind is a terrible thing to waste...”  
No need to tell me,  
you’re the one who put me in this place  
of festering hate,  
impotent arms,  
a stuttering gate- “Shut!”- on screamed alarms.  
There’s no one now:  
a bare corral and sallow cow,  
just one among the rest.  
We follow the rules as best we can,  
even though they were made by imperfect Man.  
“What does respect mean to me?”  
It means a life I no longer live:  
To be trusted, loved, and deference shown.

Gilbert “Gigi,” Virginia





eventually they stopped coming anyway because I was no longer “safe,” meaning I talked about race and class and intersectionality too much, I called people out on their well-meaning campaigns, campaigns that were about us but didn’t involve us...and just as I was scared that I was doing something wrong, you wrote me.

I was in Portland, Oregon when I read that piece, just reading it like I had read all your others. I was there to give my first address on Trans Day of Remembrance, a day where we overwhelmingly as a movement pause to speak the names of mostly trans women of color. Frankly, I didn’t want to be in Portland, to be away from my community in New York, to be speaking about the obvious tragedy of death when the daily tragedies of our lives of exile and rejection are rarely spoken and addressed.

I was frankly feeling like a fraud, a puppet for hire to speak about this for a price in front of a mostly white audience all alone. And then I saw my name in your piece, and I couldn’t stop crying: “Thank you for being such a strong, successful, positive (trans) women...Much love to you lady! xo”

It was all the affirmation I needed because if CeCe McDonald knew my name, I was doing something right. When I took that stage that night, I spoke exactly what was in my heart and on my mind. I spoke about the trans community and the LGBT movement and how it hurt me that the names of trans women of color, our names, were often amplified only when we are dead, gone, inactive, and I cried on that stage mentioning you because you gave me an offering of sisterhood, recognition and solidarity that I don’t think I’ll ever be able to repay you for.

Because of you, CeCe, I have a living portrait of resilience, beauty and power.

Because of you, CeCe, I know what injustice in our culture looks like.

Because of you, CeCe, I know that some bodies matter more than others despite our country’s spiel that all are equal. I know that when some bodies fight back those bodies are locked away for daring to survive.

Because of you, CeCe, I know that there are others, and like Angela Davis before you, your story is an example of the injustice of our culture of incarceration, racism, misogyny, and much more.

Because of you, CeCe, I know our lives are worth fighting for.

As hard as I stan for Beyoncé and Zora Neale Hurston and Clair Huxtable, I stan equally as hard for you. Like them and our foremothers, no one can hold a light to your brilliance. Thank you for existing, resisting and conquering.

In love, solidarity and black sisterhood,  
Janet

By Janet Mock Originally Published at <http://janetmock.com/2014/01/13/open-letter-to-cece-mcdonald-prison-release/>

BLACK AND PINK FAMILY SUGGESTIONS

Here are a few things family members told us they want to see more of in the Newspaper:

- 1. More Art:** We can’t pay for it, and we can’t return it, but if you have art to share in the Newspaper, send it on in.
- 2. More Legal:** Feel free to send in your legal victories, knowledge, and legal resources you know about.
- 3.** Many people dealing with the homophobic, oppressive, racist system feel deep depression and think about or attempt suicide. What’s been your experience, that may be helpful to share with others?
- 4. Book Reviews:** If you’ve read a good book about LBGTQ topics, prison, and/or organizing, write us a review.

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS FOR EXHIBIT IN NATIONAL QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL, 2014.

Who/What/Where is Home?

For some people, Home is more of a concept than it is a place. We may think of particular people when we think of a sense of Home. We may think of an object, a smell, a sound, or a phrase. We might be reminded of home because of a movement, a tradition, or retelling stories. Our sense of Home is something that lives inside of us regardless of where we are.

What does Home mean to you? If you would like to contribute to this exhibit, write a letter or create a drawing or painting of your vision of home.

A collection of these letters and images will be bound and printed into a book released during the National Queer Arts Festival, 2014. All participants from the inside will receive a free copy of the finished book.

Final deadline to submit work is **March 1st, 2014.**

**MAIL SUBMISSIONS to: Passage & Place PO Box 22469 Oakland CA 94609**

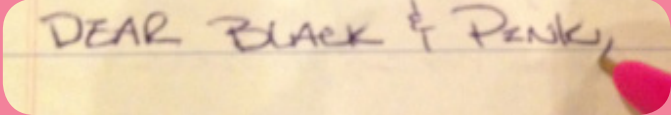
Please also respond to these questions:

- 1. Would you like your original submission returned to you?
- 2. Please include a 2-3 line bio about yourself
- 3. Would you like to have your address printed with your submission for readers to write to you?

**Please note that this submissions call is separate from On the Inside and we will not be able to offer any money for work submitted to this exhibit.**

ADDRESSES: PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESSES FOR MAIL!

Please Note: You can send multiple requests/topics in one envelope! Due to concerns about consent and confidentiality, you cannot sign up other people for the newspaper. However, we can accept requests from multiple people in the same envelope. There’s no need to send separate requests in more than one envelope.

|  |  |
|--|--|
|   | <b>Black &amp; Pink - _____</b><br><b>614 Columbia Rd</b><br><b>Dorchester, MA 02125</b><br><br>Please write one or more of these topics in the top line of the address: |
| If you would like to request:  |  |
| Newspaper Subscriptions, Pen-Pal Program, Address Change, Request Erotica, Religious Support & Volunteering (Send thank you cards to donors, etc.) | <b>Black &amp; Pink - General</b>  |
| Newspaper Submissions- Stories, Articles, Poems &Art   | <b>Black &amp; Pink - Newspaper Submissions</b>  |
| Black & Pink Organization Feedback- Especially the slip on Page 7  | <b>Black &amp; Pink - Feedback</b>   |
| Advocacy Requests- Include details about situation and thoughts about how calls or letters might help  | <b>Black &amp; Pink - Advocacy</b>   |
| Submit to Erotica Zine   | <b>Black &amp; Pink - HOT PINK</b>   |
| Stop Your Newspaper Subscription   | <b>Black &amp; Pink – STOP Subscription</b>  |

**Pen Pal Program:** LGBTQ prisoners can list their information and short non-sexual ad on the internet where free world people can see it and decide to write. There will be a Pen-Pal Request Form in the Newspaper every 4 months.  
**Mail:** We are several months behind in our mail. There will be a delay before we can open your letter, but keep writing!

**LEGAL:** Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. “Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.” Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585

**Assistance with legal research for everyone, and preparing for disciplinary and parole hearings *only* for people in Massachusetts.**  
Hotline (9am-5pm EST): 617-495-3127 By mail: Prison Legal Assistance Project, 6 Everett Street, Suite 5107, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$30 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner and Men Against Sexism organizer, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to: Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 1151 Lake Worth, FL 33460 (561) 360-2523

**SURVIVORS:** Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor. Cynthia Totten, Esp Just Detention International, 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010